The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

MODERN GREEK STUDIES FOUNDATION

Μαντατοφορος

CENTER FOR MODERN GREEK STUDIES
SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

FALL 1986 *MANTATOPHOROS: Bearer of news, messenger VOL. 2, No. 2

The Nikos Kazantzakis Endowed Chair

The Kazantzakis endowed Chair enables the Modern Greek Studies Foundation/Center for Modern Greek Studies to bring preeminent and distinguished scholars to San Francisco State University (S.F.S.U.) to teach courses in their field of specialization within modern Greek studies and to present University and public lectures under the auspices of the Chair. Since the California State University system does not provide sufficient supplemental support for all courses, programs and honoraria of the Center, earnings from the endowed Chair are essential in providing the additional funding.

How much is still needed to endow the Kazantzakis Chair?

The total minimum of gifts necessary to endow a chair is $500,000.00. The corpus (or principal) is kept intact and invested—in this case by the S.F.S.U. Foundation—to achieve growth as well as a spendable interest, and to insure a perpetual endowment.

At present $200,000.00 is still required to raise the Kazantzakis Chair endowment to its minimum level. Attainment of this goal will allow the CMGS to fulfill many of its long-term objectives (such as augmenting and improving the existing program of modern Greek studies, establishing a Resource Archive, acquiring materials for a Cretan Room, sponsoring Greek and Greek-American artists, musicians and performers, implementing plans for the NOSTOS Center for the Study of Myth and Ritual in Greece, etc.) as outlined in a previous issue of *Mantatophoros*—Fall, 1985, Vol. 1, No. 2.

cont'd on back page

Some of the movers and shakers behind ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***—from l. to r.: **Mike Meniktas, Steven Boides, Christine Daskalos, Dean Meniktas.**

"A Midsummer Night's Dream"

What better way to raise money for a good cause than by dancing the night away? **A Midsummer Night's Dream** was the theme of a sparkling benefit dance held last August at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco. More than 250 people joined in the revelry—many of them never leaving the dance-floor; music was supplied by the *Music Man.*

Proceeds (approximately $2000) went to the Modern Greek Studies Foundation/Nikos Kazantzakis Chair Endowment. The *Hellenic American Professional Society* sponsored the successful evening, but the main credit for planning and organizing goes to the Dance Committee, who worked very hard along with HAPS President **John Bakas.** Kudos to them all:

cont'd on page 2

The first visiting scholar to the Kazantzakis Chair at S.F.S.U., **Prof. Kimon Friar,** is pictured at left at a special lecture presented by the Hellenic American Professional Society last spring. Prof. Friar taught courses on modern Greek poetry and Nikos Kazantzakis during the spring semester, 1986, and also delivered a series of lectures under the auspices of the Kazantzakis Chair. We miss him very much and anticipate his return to the Bay Area in the near future. From l. to r.: **John Bakas,** HAPS President, **Kimon Friar, Anastasia Condas,** HAPS Vice President, **Stathis Trahanatzis.**

MGSF Auction In The Works

A benefit *auction* is being planned for the spring of 1987 by the Modern Greek Studies Foundation, with all proceeds to go to the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair endowment. Items to be auctioned off to the highest bidder will vary, and will include works of art (painting, sculpture, etc.), jewelry, dinners at Bay Area Greek-American restaurants, and even a Mediterranean cruise. The auction organizers—headed by MGSF founding member **Socrates Mamakos**—are actively seeking auctionable donations, and hope that the community will support this unique event. Those interested in helping to make a successful benefit (and much help is needed!) are invited to a ***MGSF Auction*** meeting on Saturday, October 11, at 1:30 p.m. in the Humanities Building (room 233) at San Francisco State University. Call the Center for Modern Greek Studies at (415) 469-1892, Dena Karbo at (415) 363-2654/859-5372 or Nicoletta Arnest at (415) 567-4676 for details.

Dorian Singers To Perform

The **Dorian Singers,** a Bay Area Greek-American choral group, will perform on Sunday, November 2, 1986 at 3:30 p.m. in Knuth Hall (in the Creative Arts Building) on the San Francisco State University campus. Under the direction of **Tikey Zes**, professor of music at San Jose State University, the Dorian Singers will present a program in two parts: Greek liturgical music (including medieval and 19th century chants) and Greek folk music. While most of the program is sung in Greek, there are a few modern selections in English. **Anita Mottola** is the group's accompanist. Donation: $5 general; $2 students/seniors. The Center for Modern Greek Studies and the Hellenic American Professional Society, program sponsors, will host a reception following the performance.

"Midsummer Night's Dream" cont'd.

Steve Boides
Mike Meniktas
Christine Daskalos
Gigi Glafkides
Sophia Koros
Lotis Cajoleas (for the terrific artwork)
Valerie Daskalos
George Daskalos
Kathy Glafkides
Tom Koros
Dean Meniktas
Dora Pistiolas
Lena Pistiolas

Special thanks must also go to **Tom Daskalos** and **Del Webb's High Sierra** for contributing the fabulous door-prize of a weekend in Tahoe(!). Fund-raising was never so fun!

Modern Greek Studies Courses Spring 1987

***Greek 251* — Modern Greek II** (2nd Semester); instructor: **E. Kalafatis**

***Greek 470* — Modern Greek IV** (4th Semester)

***History 349* — Modern Greek History & Culture**; instructor: **E. Panagopoulos**

Note: Dates and times will be announced later.

Modern Greek language classes offered through the Center for Modern Greek Studies at S.F.S.U. continue to thrive. This fall, the beginning students (above) are being taught by **Prof. Thanasis Maskaleris,** while **Effie Kalafatis** (below) is the instructor of the intermediate class. Mrs. Kalafatis also teaches a beginning Greek class at the S.F.S.U. Extension one evening a week, and Prof. Maskaleris will soon start another beginning Greek class through the University of California Extension on Thursday evenings.

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Panagopoulos To Teach History

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation/Center for Modern Greek Studies will sponsor a special course on *Modern Greek History and Culture* at San Francisco State University during the spring semester 1987. The course, taught by **Dr. Epaminondas Panagopoulos** and offered through S.F.S.U.'s Department of History, will focus on the socio-political and economic developments in contemporary Greece mainly from 1821 to the present day, as well as the literary, artistic, and intellectual activities during the same period. The significance of the geographic location of Greece as the crossroads of East and West will be studied not only through the geo-political and international relations of the country, but also through its impact upon Greek culture.

Dr. Panagopoulos has been on the faculty of San Jose State University's Department of History for many years, and was a recipient of S.J.S.U.'s *Distinguished Professor Award.* A native of Greece, he holds law and political science degrees from the University of Athens, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago. He has published numerous books and articles in his field, among them *Alexander Hamilton's Pay Book, Nea Smyrna,* and *The History and Meaning of Checks and Balances.* Don't miss your chance to hear our inspiring and erudite visiting professor —the class will meet on Tuesday evenings, beginning Febru ary 3. Call the CMGS at 469-1892 for more information.

Center Director Wins Fulbright

Thanasis Maskaleris, director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies and professor of comparative literature and classics, has been awarded a *Fulbright* grant to Greece during the spring of 1987. Prof. Maskaleris will be conducting research on the life and work of Nikos Kazantzakis, and will be based at the University of Rethymno in Crete.

Change of Address

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation has a new post office box number and zip code, effective immediately. Please make a note of the change: P.O. Box 590025, San Francisco, CA 94159-0025.

The Axion Award

On Sunday, February 8, 1987, **The Hellenic American Professional Society** will celebrate *Greek Letters Week* with their **AXION Award**—bestowed annually on distinguished members of the Bay Area Greek/Greek-American community. HAPS selects those who best exemplify the Homeric maxim: "To forever excel and seek the highest goals." This coming year the **Center for Modern Greek Studies** will also be honored during the AXION ceremonies.

The celebration will be held on the San Francisco State University campus, and will coincide with the unveiling of a head of Nikos Kazantzakis by the noted Greek sculptor **George Koras.** The work was commissioned by the *Maria Callas Memorial Portrait Fund* in New York, and has been generously donated to the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair in Modern Greek Studies at S.F.S.U. Mr. Koras' talent is recognized in Greece and internationally, and we will be delighted to have him present at the dedication ceremony in February.

The AXION Award luncheon and sculpture dedication will take place at S.F.S.U.'s Seven Hills Conference Center at 12:30 p.m. For further information and reservations please call Patricia Aleck at (415) 566-8544 (San Francisco) or Anastasia Condas at (415) 538-3769 (East Bay).

MGSF Board Meeting

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation will hold its annual meeting for the Board of Directors and other Foundation members on October 18, 1986, at 2 p.m. in the Humanities Building (room 233) at San Francisco State University. The Board will review last year's events, programs and fund-raising activities and plan for the forthcoming year.

Recent Contributors to the Kazantzakis Chair

Themis Christo
Demetra Georgas
Denis & Evie Karas
Helen Kazantzakis (substantial donation)
Helen B. Kondos
Harry Lefakis
Themistocles & Dare Michos
Nicholas C. Petris
George & Mary Thodos
Leticia Wiley

OXI Day Dinner-Dance

The **United Hellenic American Societies of Northern California** will mark the 46th celebration of ***OXI Day*** with a dinner-dance on Sunday, November 1, 1986 at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in San Francisco. The festivities begin with no-host cocktails at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and dancing to the music of *POSEIDON.* Reservations can be made by calling 531-6423 or 994-0697.

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The Kazantzakis Chair, cont'd.

How is the endowment income used?

Income from the endowment provides support for the Center for Modern Greek Studies (e.g., administrative and research assistance, secretarial help, promotion and public relations [like this newsletter!], special language courses and tutoring, programs and events related to modern Greek literature and culture, etc., and covers the salary of the visiting faculty to the Kazantzakis Chair. The Chair endowment is a stable and continuous base of support which is used to attract distinguished faculty and students and, in this way, serves as the foundation of the Center for Modern Greek Studies and all its activities.

How are the Chairholders appointed?

The director of the Center recommends scholars of recognized international reputation to the University administration. Final selection is made by the Departments of Classics and Comparative Literature and the Dean of the School of Humanities.

At the present time the Kazantzakis Chair is occupied on a visiting basis for one semester or one academic year. Eventually a permanent chairholder will be appointed.

How can contributions to the Kazantzakis Chair be made?

All donated funds are received by the MGSF and, unless otherwise designated, become part of the Kazantzakis Chair endowment capital. As a federal and state non-profit organization, contributions are tax-deductible (IRS #94-2746473, state registration #D-1077823). Individuals and groups can also support the CMGS and its programs by organizing benefit activities on behalf of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation. Those interested in establishing specialized or memorial scholarships are encouraged to contact the Center or the Foundation.

The Nikos Kazantzakis endowed Chair not only honors the great Cretan writer and Greek Letters, but is a special gift which reflects in perpetuity the vision and generosity of its donors. The existence of the Chair and the associated academic and cultural programs are among the most important factors in preserving the Greek heritage and culture in the Bay Area and all of northern California.

Individuals wishing to learn more about the Kazantzakis Chair and the Center for Modern Greek Studies may contact:

Center for Modern Greek Studies
School of Humanities
San Francisco State University
San Francisco, CA 94132
(415) 469-1892

Plaster Model

When he closed his eyes he could remember nothing of the summer,
only a golden haze and his ring warm on his finger,
but still more the naked, broad, sunburnt shoulders of a young farmer
whom he managed partly to see behind the willows—at two in the afternoon—
as he was returning from the sea—an odor of burnt grass everywhere.
At that very moment the crickets and a ship's siren shrilled.

Statues, of course, are made much later.

—Yannis Ritsos, 1909-
Translated by **Kimon Friar**